

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

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DRAFTED BY ARA:HSHLAUDEMAN:MCH

APPROVED BY ARA:HSHLAUDEMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184182

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: GOC REVIEW OF CHILEAN-US ECONOMIC RELATIONS

REF: SANTIAGO 7172

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A WIDE-RANGING TALK ON JULY 22, TRUCCO TOLD ME THAT THE GOC WAS EXAMINING THE DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUING TO RECEIVE U.S. BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE NOTED THAT THE AMOUNT IS SMALL AND THE PROBLEM LARGE INASMUCH AS THE CONGRESS FOCUSES ON CHILE AS AN AID RECIPIENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO DISPENSE WITH SUCH ASSISTANCE ALTOGETHER.

2. I REPLIED THAT THE PROBLEM IN PART SEEMED TO LIE IN AN IMPRESSION AMONG SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THAT OUR AID TO CHILE OVER THESE LAST THREE YEARS HAS BEEN DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE WHEN COMPARED WITH ASSISTANCE LEVELS FOR OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. WITH THE CHILEAN LEVEL NOW
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COMING MORE INTO LINE WITH OTHERS, I THOUGHT THE DIFFICULTY

WOULD DIMINISH. I ADDED THAT WE HOPED TO CONTRIBUTE IN A MODEST FASHION TO CHILE'S EFFORTS TO RECONSTRUCT HER ECONOMY.

3. COMMENT: I SUSPECT THIS IS WHAT THE REVIEW REPORTED IN THE REFTEL IS ABOUT. I THINK WE SHOULD LET THE CHILEANS

MAKE THEIR OWN DECISION ON THIS POINT, ALTHOUGH WE CAN'T BE SURE THERE IS ANY REAL SERIOUSNESS TO IT. THEY COULD JUST BE SHOWING THEIR PIQUE OVER THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAIN.

4. WE WILL REPORT ON THE REST OF THE CONVERSATION WITH TRUCCO BY SEPTTEL. ROBINSON

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